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IFW

Serial No. 10/807,894

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Robert H. Rines

Serial No. 10/807,894

Group Art: 3713

Filed: 03/24/04

Examiner: Saadat, Cameron

For: Method of and apparatus for supplementing the reading of selected passages of printed material in a book or the like by electronically reading coded indicia provided in the book at such passages to access the playing of corresponding coded tracks of pre-recorded video/audio supplemental material respectively related to the selected passages

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Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant now having had the benefit of a European Patent Office search report in the corresponding international patent application PCT/IB2004/003802 (now believed available to the Examiner over the Internet), applicant would make of record a copy of the prior art listed in the search report and of the cited references, though only one -- European Patent Application 0359541, copy also enclosed -- was deemed by the International Searching Authority as possibly anticipating some of applicant's claimed invention.

This European application, while it does indeed deal generally with the use of bar-code memory lists in, for example, publications such as encyclopedias (Figures 6A and B,

etc.) for accessing supplemental recorded materials, it is actually centered upon "an optical-disc playback apparatus operable by a combination of an optical-disc such as a laserdisc or CD and a printed matter on which barcodes are printed" (abstract). The disclosure teaches that "by recording predetermined programs defining the operation of said optical disc playback apparatus corresponding to said barcodes", certain advantages result in the disc playback operations.

This clearly does not, however, relate to, let alone anticipate applicant's invention of enabling a book reader, for example, automatically to see supplemental pictorial material on a player/displayer by merely swiping an appropriate hand-held combined bar-code reader and remote-player control wand, over bar code indicia printed in the book at an appropriate passage of the text relating to that material.

Applicant considers, however, that there is more relevance in US patent 5, 899, 700 issued May 4, 1999 to Williams et al (copy enclosed) which has the same objectives as applicant, but requires much more complicated computer apparatus and the necessity for reader-computer access and proximity.

This is totally avoided and greatly simplified in applicant's invention, as described, for example, in applicant's method claim 1:

"by providing an electronic wand for remotely selectively accessing the respective tracks of a medium player available to the book reader"

and also

"further providing to the book reader an electronic reader of said coded indicia, adapted to activate electronic wand".

Through this combined concept, applicant, unlike Williams et al, enables the reader, while reading the book, simply to swipe the bar-code reader over the pertinent code indicia at a desired passage of the book, thereby automatically actuating the reader's wand and its remote control player operation and selection; and, without any other operation, thereby automatically causing the remote wand-controlled player to display/reproduce the supplemental pictorial or other material selected by the reader.


Since this or similar distinguishing language appears in all of applicant's claims, they are believed to define applicant's invention clearly over the above and all other prior art known to applicant. More specific novel features are also presented in the claims such as the specific combined reader-wand operation of method claims 3-5 and of apparatus claims 11-14.

Applicant agrees with the International Searching Authority that the remaining cited references (copies enclosed) are only relevant to the state-of-the-art and not anticipatory of applicants claimed inventions.

Any costs incurred by the filing of this statement may be charged to account number 18-1425 of applicant's counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

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